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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

SUBJECT

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Korea/USSR

Korean Prisoners of War in the USSR

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X11. A group of twenty-five Korean soldiers attached to the Kobayashi () Battalion of the Japanese army were taken prisoner on Paramushiro (155-38, 50-18) Island, in the Kuril Islands, by Soviet forces in August 1945. With several thousand other Japanese prisoners, they were sent to Nikolayevsk (140-44, 53-08) in September 1945. For over a year, seventy Koreans and an unspecified number of Japanese worked at a village about twenty kilometers north of Komsomolsk, laying water pipe into the suburbs and cutting timber.
 - 2. In October 1946, the Koreans were removed from the group and ordered to report to Khabarovsk for repatriation. Upon arrival in Khabarovsk, they were placed with about four hundred Korean war prisoners from other localities (unspecified); the group increased to about seven hundred by October 1947. They were billeted in the 22nd Prisoner of War Camp of the Sixteenth District, a former warehouse, and were employed in building wooder houses for civilians, loading and unloading cargoes for the local consumers union, and making bricks. Because of the shortage of regular brick, a cinder block construction material was made in brick form, about eighteen by eight by eight inches. The cinder bricks were made by the Koreans and were used for buildings under three stories and for civilian housing.
 - 3. In October 1947, the seven hundred Koreans were sent to Glazkovskoye (134-08, 43-05), south of Khabarovsk, and consigned to the 4th Prisoner of War Camp of the Sixteenth District. During the year October 1947 to October 1948, the group increased to about 1,300 members. They were employed in constructing buildings of wood and cinder block.
 - 4. In October 1948, the entire group and other Koreans, about 2,500 altogether, were sent to Nakhodka (132-57, 42-48). Most of the group were dispatched from Nakhodka on 24 November 1948 to Hamhung (127-32, 39-54). Eighty-three Koreans who were not repatriated were sent to Khor (134-57, 47-53), where they worked at a timber mill until September 1949. They were returned to Nakhodka and remained until 12 Cotober 1949.

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TRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- On that date, the group take taken from Nakhorka to a large army post (name unknown)* near the Soviet-Korean border, an overnight trip by frain. On the journey they talked with many Soviet officers and soldiers who spoke of serving in North Korea. From the army town to the Korean border, the Koreans were driven in three American-made Studebaker army trucks under the command of a Soviet lieutenant colonel with yellow shoulder boards. The trip took about two hours, over a dirt road about seven meters wide, which did not pass through any towns or farms but kept to an apparently uninhabited area.
- 6. At the border, there was a bridge guarded by Soviet soldiers on one side and Korean on the other. Here the Koreans were turned over by a Soviet major and second lieutenant to a North Korean lieutenant colonel who was chief of the Public Security Bureau at Unggi (130-20, 42-20). After crossing the bridge, the repatriates were sent to Unggi; they saw no Soviet personnel there. After two days, they were transferred to Chongjin (129-49, 41-46), where they arrived 15 October 1949.
- To Chongjin, the repatriates were given political indoctrination training for two hours daily by members of the North Korean Labor Party in the Chongjin headquarters. Ten natives of Hamgyong Province were sent off separately on 27 October; the remainder of the group were transferred to Pyongyang. Of the twenty-three persons in the group who were from South Korea, fifteen were sent home; the other eight decided to remain temporarily in the north. On 28 and 29 October, the remaining persons were divided into groups of five and placed in separate hotels. At midnight on 29 October, one of the five was taken alone to the Public Security Bureau of the Ministry of Interior, twice interrogated about his attitude towards Communism and his personal ideology, and given political instruction. He was forced to sign the following statement:

"For unification of the People's Republic of Korea, the following is ordered:

- Organize guerrilla troops and encourage them in South Korea.
- 2. If taken into the South Korean Army, stir up trouble.
- 3. Try to get work in South Korean ports and obtain information on ships coming in and out and cargoes being leaded and unloaded.
- 4. Refuse to speak on the South Korean radio even if ordered by the government there.
- 5. Report to the 38th Parallel between 1 and 10 March 1950 and ask the guards on the North Korean side for access to the head of the Public Security Bureau at the border. Recognition code, for recognition gives g in person, is 'Father Number 26.' Names
- 8. After receiving these instructions, the eight South Koreans were taken to the border on 1 November 1949 near Tosong (126-28, 37-56) and returned to South Korea.

25X1		this town was the end of a railway line
25X1	and possibly an army division	force, since most of the soldiers observed
25X1	in the town wore oil- and dirt	-stained fatigues.

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25X1	Comment. The bridge was not named and it sketchily described that positive indentificati the group entered North Korea directly from Sov they probably crossed the Tumen River near Sosu proceeded by road to Unggi.	on is difficult. If iet territory, however,
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